



News Release

U.S. ARMY FIELD SUPPORT COMMAND

April 15, 2005

Maj. Gen. Johnson gets second star

Rock Island, Ill. – Under sunny skies near the banks of the Mississippi River, Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson was promoted today to the rank of major general.

The promotion ceremony took place at Constitution Square on Rock Island Arsenal, which hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Army Field Support Command. Maj. Gen. Johnson has served as commanding general of AFSC since June 11, 2004, and also once served at Rock Island as commanding general of one of its predecessor commands, the U.S. Army War Reserve Support Command.

Maj. Gen. Johnson's second star was pinned on his uniform by his wife, Doris, and by Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command. AFSC is among the major subordinate commands of AMC, which is headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Maj. Gen. Johnson's sons, Kobie and Anthony, also participated in the ceremony by presenting him with his two-star "cover," a term for the hat worn by Soldiers.

As commanding general of AFSC, Maj. Gen. Johnson leads a global organization responsible for providing front-line logistics support to combat units. The command manages Army pre-positioned stocks located in strategic locations around the world; maintains weapons and equipment at bases in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; and oversees the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), which provides contractor support in theaters of operation.

The U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, which is subordinate to AFSC and is also headquartered at Rock Island, is responsible for providing conventional munitions to the Army and all other U.S. armed services.

Those missions were cited in remarks given by Gen. Griffin, who described AFSC as "our nation's '911' command. When it comes to responding quickly and providing timely, day-to-day support to our soldiers in the field, we rely on AFSC."

Gen. Griffin noted that many Soldiers, civilians and contractor employees from AFSC were providing that support in forward-deployed locations such as Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. “What they do directly impacts the readiness of our joint military,” Gen. Griffin said.

Speaking of Maj. Gen. Johnson, Gen. Griffin said, “Jerry is the right person at the right time in our nation’s history to lead AFSC. He’s made sure that we have the right people in the right places to get the mission done.

“When something has to be done, he’s the person I turn to,” Gen. Griffin remarked. “And when I do call, Jerry’s already leaning forward, ready to act. He has one of the most challenging and visible jobs in the Army, and he does it very well. It is a privilege to promote him.”

During his remarks, Maj. Gen. Johnson personally acknowledged many of the family members, friends, community leaders, and professional colleagues present at the ceremony.

Speaking of his wife and sons, Maj. Gen. Johnson said, “It’s said that you enlist soldiers, you commission officers, but you keep families. And my family has been essential to keeping me in the military and supporting me throughout my career.”

Maj. Gen. Johnson described AFSC as “AMC’s link to the tactical Army,” and said of Gen. Griffin, “You have truly given us the authority and the resources to execute our mission, and I greatly appreciate that.”

Winning the war on terrorism is “only a matter of time,” Maj. Gen. Johnson said. He added, “What the Army needs it, cannot buy. It needs men and women who see service to our nation as a matter of the heart, and who are willing to raise their hands and swear that they will support and defend our Constitution.

“I’m proud to serve our nation, and I’m looking forward to continuing to serve you,” Maj. Gen. Johnson concluded. “And to everyone in AFSC, remember that you don’t work for me; I work for you. I’m here to get you the resources you need to do your job.”

A native of Sylvania, Ga., Brig. Gen. Johnson has served in the Army since 1973, when he earned his commission as an officer through the ROTC program at Fort Valley State College in Georgia and was named as distinguished military graduate. He also holds a master’s degree in business administration from Syracuse University. He earned a Senior Service College Fellowship at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and later served there as a director in the School of Advanced Military Studies.

Maj. Gen. Johnson’s most recent assignment before returning to Rock Island last June was with Department of the Army Headquarters, as director of plans, operations and readiness in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (G-4). He was in the Pentagon on

Sept. 11, 2001, when the building was attacked by terrorists who had hijacked a civilian airliner.

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AFSC G-5 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
PHONE: (309) 782-5421; FAX: (309) 782-5011
E-MAIL: afsc-ofc-pc@afsc.army.mil